

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 COME-00

CU-04 RSR-01 /143 W

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R 231130 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2941

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES APRIL 22-23

1. CAIRO PAPERS CONTINUE TO MAKE NO MENTION OF LIBYAN
MIRAGES IN EGYPT AND DO NOT CARRY REPORT OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR
HURE'S MEETING WITH EBAN ON THIS SUBJECT APRIL 22.

2. GOE POLICY STATEMENT, DELIVERED BY HATEM APRIL 21, IS
GIVEN FULL COVERAGE AND MAJOR PLAY IN APRIL 22 PRESS . STATE-
MENT EMPHASIZED NEED FOR SOLUTIONS TO DOMESTIC-- PRIMARILY
ECONOMIC-- PROBLEMS, WAS MILDLY CRITICAL OF US, BUT CONTAINED
LITTLE OF THE HARSH AND BELLIGERENT REMARKS WHICH SADAT

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HAS MADE RECENTLY. WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION OF A THREAT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO COLLECT TAXES MORE EFFICIENTLY, GOE MEASURES TO CONFRONT EGYPT'S CHALLENGES CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS BELT- LOOSENING, INVOLVING ELIMINATION OF TAXES ON SMALL LAND- HOLDINGS, REDUCTION OF DUTIES ON CERTAIN TYPES OF AUTOMOBILES, INCREASED ALLOCATIONS FOR COMMODITIES, INCREASED EXPENDITURES FOR HOUSING, AND IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH AND OTHER SERVICES. HATEM'S STATEMENT CALLED FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT IN EGYPT BY FOREIGN SOURCES, BUT OTHERWISE DID NOT INDICATE WHERE MONEY TO FINANCE NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WOULD COME FROM.

3. ARAB CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING ENDED APRIL 22 WITH TWO- HOUR MEETING AT ARAB LEAGUE. FOLLOWING MEETING, EGYPTIAN COS SHAZLI STATED-- IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER REPORTS PRESENTED AT MEETING HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY: " THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROGRESS, THOUGH DIFFERENT VIEWS COULD BE HELD ABOUT SUCH PROGRESS." SHAZLI ADDED THAT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR MEETING OF JOINT ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL. CONCERNING " REVIVAL OF EASTERN FRONT," SHAZLI SAID THAT NO PROGRESS HAS YET BEEN ACHIEVED IN THIS REGARD. (AKHBAR NOTES THAT ARAB LEAGUE SECGEN RIAD WILL SHORTLY VISIT SEVERAL ARAB CAPITALS, INCLUDING AMMAN, TO DISCUSS EASTERN FRONT QUESTION.)

4. ETHIOPIAN FONMIN HAILE MET SADAT APRIL 21, ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING DAY'S PRESS, AND CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ETHIOPIA HAS GIVEN ANY FACILITIES TO ISRAEL. HAILE LATER MET WITH ARAB LEAGUE SECGEN RIAD, EXTENDED INVITATION FOR ARAB DELEGATION TO VISIT ETHIOPIA AND RED SEA ISLANDS TO ASCERTAIN THAT NO ISRAELI BASES, FACILITIES, ETC., EXIST ON ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. APRIL 22 PRESS REPORTS THAT MAHMOUD RIAD HAS INFORMED ARAB CAPITALS OF HIS TALKS WITH HAILE, BUT THERE IS NO DEFINITE INFORMATION THAT ARAB DELEGATION WILL BE SENT TO ETHIOPIA.

5. ACCORDING TO APRIL 23 PRESS, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY IN APRIL 22 SESSION PASSED LAW MAKING MILITARY TRAINING COMPULSORY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, APRIL 23 PRESS NOTES THAT CAMPS WILL BE SET UP THROUGHOUT EGYPT TO TRAIN CITIZENS IN POPULAR RESISTANCE OPERATIONS. DECISION ON THIS WAS TAKEN AT MEETING OF INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE, HEADED BY MININT SALEM APRIL 22.

WILEY

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